

1999 SUGAR AND SPECIALTY CROP HIGHLIGHTS

SUGAR

Sugar production for 1999 rose 4 percent above the previous year to 368,000 tons of 96⁰ raw sugar. An increase in acreage for harvest accounted for this higher production. Plantations were able to harvest 2.9 million tons of sugarcane from this acreage for an average yield of 81.7 tons of sugarcane per acre. Sugar prices during 1999 dipped 4 percent to \$352 per ton of 96⁰ raw sugar, resulting in a total value of \$131.3 million for raw sugar, 1 percent below 1998.

COFFEE

Hawaii farmers harvested 10.0 million pounds of coffee (parchment basis) during the 1999-2000 season, up 5 percent from the previous season and the largest harvest since the 1962-63 season. Farm prices across the State averaged \$2.10 per pound (parchment basis) for the 1999-2000 season, down 19 percent from the previous season. Total farm value of the 1999-2000 crop is estimated at \$21.0 million (parchment basis), down 15 percent from the 1998-99 season.

Hawaii county production totaled 3.0 million pounds (parchment basis) during the 1999-2000 season, down 14 percent from the previous season. Less-than-optimal weather conditions in the North and South Kona districts, where most of the Big Island's coffee is grown, resulted in a late and smaller harvest compared to the previous season. Heavy pruning at the end of the 1998-99 season and, to a lesser extent, relatively low farm prices also contributed to the drop in output.

MACADAMIA NUTS

Hawaii's 1999-2000 macadamia nut crop is estimated at **56.5** million pounds net, wet in-shell, 1.0 million pounds below last season's crop. Weather conditions had mixed effects on orchards depending on location. Some areas received ample rainfall while others experienced an ongoing drought. Overall yields averaged 2,990 pounds per acre (net, wet in-shell), nearly unchanged from the previous season.

Total acreage in crop dropped 300 acres from the previous year to 19,900 acres and the lowest total in 14 years. Harvested acreage also declined by 300 acres totaling 18,900 acres. More acreage was abandoned this season along with the announcement that this will be the final season for a major Maui orchard.

The farm price for net, wet in-shell macadamia nuts averaged 67.0 cents per pound, up 2.0 cents from the 1998-1999 average. The farm value for the 1999-2000 crop is estimated at \$37.9 million, up 1.0 percent from the previous year. Hawaii growers continued to feel the impact from increased world competition.